



CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK

2009 – 2010 School Year

Thank you for your interest in our school tours. We strive to provide the best programs possible for your students, and truly look forward to sharing this special place with you. In order to ensure a positive experience for all, the guidelines below must be followed.

Visiting schools must make reservations for guided tours AND self-guided tours.
Please read the following instructions to make reservations.

To reserve a Guided or Self Guided Tour:

Reservations are accepted from August 15 – March 30. Tours are filled first come, first served. Fill out the reservations request form with three choices of dates and mail it with payment to the address below. Reservations received without payment will not be processed. Your entrance fee waiver /confirmation page will be sent to you when all paperwork is complete. Please mail the check made out to CBTA (*for recordkeeping, cash is not accepted*) and your form to:

Calaveras Big Trees State Park
Attn: School Tours
PO Box 120
Arnold, CA 95223

School Group Coordinator: (209) 795-7980 Fax: (209) 795-6680 or wharrison@parks.ca.gov

Guided Tours:

- Guided tours are available at **10:00 AM and 12:00 PM Monday – Friday** during the months of **April and May** and **September and October**. Tours usually last about 1.5 - 2 hours. Arrive at the park on time to ensure a full tour.
- **Reservations for guided tours must be made at least thirty days in advance of your planned date.** Due to volunteer scheduling needs, there are no exceptions. It is very difficult to change tour dates once they are reserved, so please check your school schedule carefully before making a reservation.
- One tour is equal to one busload of forty people, or forty people carpooling. If you carpool, please try to limit the number of cars.
- A guided tour provides a park employee or Docent to take your class through the North Grove or Three Senses Trail.
- Your group also may visit the Visitor Center Museum/Store and view a slide show presentation (about 20 minutes). Space is limited in the Visitor Center and only a group of 20 people at a time will be taken through.
- Guided tour fees are \$60.00 for each group of up to 40 students and adults (\$20 non-refundable reservation fee, \$40 payable for the tour itself, *the total amount must be sent at the same time to confirm your requested guided tour date*).
- Only one group (40 people maximum) may be accommodated during each time slot (Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM or 12:00 PM).
(see reverse side)

- Groups over 40 should reserve two guided tours, or make a reservation for a self-guided tour for the balance of your group.
- For the safety of the children, one adult per 10 children must be present. Close supervision is imperative for a safe and rewarding experience.
- If your group is more than 30 minutes late, your tour may be cancelled. *If you know in advance that you may be delayed, please call the park (209-795-7980 or 209-795-2334) so that we can try to accommodate you upon your arrival.*
- If you need to cancel your reservation, please contact us no later than one week (seven days) before your scheduled arrival to receive a refund. (\$20.00 of your fee is a non-refundable reservation fee).
- Children in second grade and older will be taken on the North Grove Trail, younger children will be taken on the Three Senses Trail unless requested otherwise.
- Although not required, nametags on the students are very helpful to our tour leaders.

Self Guided Tours:

- Self-guided tour reservations must be confirmed at least ten days in advance to receive the school group discount. (see below)
- A non-refundable reservation fee of \$20.00 is required at least 10 days prior to arrival. This reservation allows us to ensure that the park will not be overcrowded with other tours. If you choose not to pay the reservation fee, you will be charged \$8.00 per passenger vehicle, \$50.00 for a 10-24 passenger bus, or \$100 for a 25-or-more passenger bus.
- Each tour is limited to 40 people. If you carpool, please try to limit the number of cars. Two tours may be reserved for one time slot if room in the park allows.

Weather and road conditions may prevent park personnel from performing your program.

If possible, we will inform you if the program will not be given due to adverse weather and/or road conditions. *This notification is not always possible. If you are unsure of conditions, call us before you leave your school.* In the event of weather-related cancellations, we will attempt to reschedule your tour. If this is not possible, then we will refund your fee.

A Teacher's Guide to the North Grove is available. Information on Giant Sequoia ecology and the park in general is included. There are also ideas for activities to do with your students prior to arrival. To receive a guide, add three dollars to your reservation fee.

Be prepared to spend at least two hours in the park. If you wish to view the slide show and visit the museum/gift shop, then you need to plan for enough time to rotate small groups through these areas. Be sure to plan enough time to eat lunch or use the restrooms upon arrival.

We strongly recommend that you arrive in the park one half-hour prior to your tour time. This will allow the children time to use the restroom and have a snack before beginning the walk. Children that have a snack prior to (not during) the hike will fare much better.

We look forward to sharing the wonders of Calaveras Big Trees State Park with your students. For general information about Calaveras Big Trees and other California State Parks please visit our website at www.parks.ca.gov

